United Nations S/2002/1337

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 December 2002

Original: English

Letter dated 6 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Declaration of the Government of Angola on the peace process dated 19 November 2002 (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ismael A. **Gaspar Martins**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-72634 (E) 061202

Annex to the letter dated 6 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Declaration of the Government of Angola on the peace process

The forthcoming conclusion of the activities of the Joint Commission, created under the Lusaka Protocol, will take place at a crucial moment in the consolidation of peace and national reconciliation in the Republic of Angola. The extension of the administration of the State is starting to be normalized and people and goods can circulate freely throughout the national territory.

The principles and values embedded in the Constitution, especially those that relate to national unity, human dignity, pluralism of expression and political organization as well as the respect and guarantee of human rights and fundamental freedoms are the basic and essential premises for political life and national reconciliation.

In this sense the Government of Angola believes the conditions are set for all political parties to develop their political activities, in keeping with the legislation throughout the nation. In this context UNITA, now a political party, will naturally conduct its activities at a national level.

The Government is glad to perceive that the country is emerging as a stable and secure political environment. It therefore reiterates its optimism and underscores the generosity and dedication of all of those that suffered necessities and sacrifices as they struggled for peace. The Government is aware that there is still a lot to be done since national reconciliation will not be exhausted by the application of the final calendar of the Lusaka Protocol.

The Government recognizes the importance of continuing to work closely with UNITA, in a bilateral forum, for it is convinced that the dialogue will contribute to the consolidation of national reconciliation and to the stability of the country. It also recognizes the usefulness for the above process of the contribution of the rest of the political forces as well as that of civil and professional associations.

The Government reaffirms its intention to implement a social reinsertion programme for those that were demobilized and the resettlement of the displaced, as well as to fight against poverty and strive for its eradication; a struggle for which it hopes to continue to receive the support of the international community.

The Government reiterates its conviction that the democratic institutions in Angola are the effective instruments for channelling protests and expressing disagreements and desires for reform and change, within the framework of the law.

The Angolan Government considers that the forthcoming conclusion of the activities of the Joint Commission for the Peace Process is a turning point in our history, the beginning of a new era, when all Angolans from Cabinda to Cunene should, united, transform the Republic of Angola into a peaceful, prosperous and modern nation, capable of ensuring the physical, material and spiritual well-being of all its citizens.

On this occasion, the Government of the Republic of Angola would like to convey to UNITA its appreciation for its efforts in the observance of the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Act of Commitment for the final conclusion of the Lusaka Protocol. On the other hand, it would like to express its gratitude to the United Nations and the country members of the Troika for their important role in the peace process, and to the international community for the support extended to the Angolan people.

19 November 2002

Government of National Unity and Reconciliation